THE SPEAKER'S SUFFERINGS.

CLAIMS HARD TO BE RECONCILED.

ASPIRANTS FOR GOOD PLACES ON HOUSE COMMIT-TEES BY NO MEANS MODEST.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Washington, Dec. 17 .- Speaker Carlisle's wan face and anxious, weary air excited general attention and comment to-day, and clearly showed the severe mental and physical strain put upon him by his new duties. Last Saturday he spoke confidently of his ability to complete the committees so as to announce them on Wednesday. He then expected to have the Democratic assignments to standing committees completed Saturday night, but to-night he finds that work still un-finished and in some respects in a less satisfactory condition than it was 48 hours ago.

It is understood from Democratic Congressmen who enjoy to a certain extent his confidence that the Speaker is greatly worried, not to say disgusted, by what he may justly regard as the unreasonable and pertinacious demands of some of the men who supported him. They "claim" and insist upon having important places, to which they are not fairly entitled by experience, ability or qualifications, and places, moreover, which have been promised to other men. It is asserted, for example, that the pertinacity of Perry Belmont's friends has become extremely annoying, and it is stoutly denied that the personal relations between that statesman and S. S. Cox are still friendly, although Mr. Belmont asserts that they are, so far as he is concerned. The severe criticisms of Democrats upon Mr. Belmont's aspirations still continue. It is said by persons who ought to know that Andrew G. Curtin, ex-Senator Eaton and others have declared, in language more emphatic than polite, that they will never consent to serve on the Foreign Affairs Committee if he is appointed chairman.

WHY MR. COX IS ANGRY. Speaking of this matter to-day a prominent Democratic Congressman said: "Cox feels hurt and angry, and I do not blame him. You remember he was very active several years ago in efforts designed to secure the amelioration of the condition of the Jews of Russia. When he went abroad the last time the Jews showed their gratitude by the kind welcome they gave him in every city of note from Damascus to Liverpool. Well, he came to Washington as a candidate for the Speakership, and the three 'Hebrew children in this body voted against him to a man; and, as though that was not showing enough ingratitude, one of them is trying to rob him of the cherished object of his ambition—the chairmanship of Foreign Affairs. I say he has a right to feel angry and disgusted.'

It is understood that Judge Buckner, of Missouri, prefers his old chairmanship of the Banking and Currency Committee to a place on the Ways and Means, and this preference will probably be respected, for the Speaker will find no difficulty in filling the Democratic quota on the latter committee. If Mr. Blackburn consents to serve on it, Mr. Willis, of Keutneky, will probably be given the chairmanship of Education and Labor, a committee of which he has been a member during the last six years. There has been a proposition to divide the duties of that committee and create a new one on Labor, presumably in order to make a chairmanship for Mr. "Calamity" Weller, of Iowa, who, although elected as a Greenback-Labor candidate, warmly supported Mr. Carlisle and entered the Democratic caucus to yote for him. It is understood that Judge Buckner, of Missouri,

REORGANIZATION OF THE SENATE.

properties a supering at which it was decided that Senate until after the holiday recess. It was said that Senater Anthony was so manifestly improving that it was boosed he might be able after the recess to enter upon the active duties of the office. It was made known to the canens that the Democrats wished to have time to consider in cancus their line of action in respect to the reorganization of the Senate, and it was decided to introduce to-day a resolution to proceed to the election of officers, but to allow it to lie ever until to-morrow. This was subsequently done.

A resolution was effered prohibiting removals of subordinate officers of the Senate without the assent of the presiding officer. This would be a restoration of an old rule which was abrogated three of four years ago. After discussion it was withdrawn. A resolution was adout to retain the Union soldiers upon the role.

to retain the Union soldiers upon the rolls of the Senate in their positions.

The Democratic Senators held a caucus this afternoon and decided to nominate the Democratic officers of the Senate who were nominated at the cancus two years ago, as follows: L. Q. Washington for Secretary; E. J. Bright, Serge ant-at-Arms; Colonel Payt, a Executive Clerk; F.E. Sheber, Principal Clerk; Pr. Hallock, Chaplain. It is indicated upon Democrate anthonity that this does not mean a fight against the flepublican nonliness. The Democrates will content themselves with simply voting for their own candidates, and will not resort to any dilatory acties to prevent the election of the Republicans.

THE CASE OF RICHARD WAGNER UNCERTAINTY RESPECTING THE PATE OF AN AMER-

ICAN CITIZEN IN EUSSIA. INY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 .- Boston and Philadelphia news; apers a few days ago contained accounts about the arrest and transportation to Siberia of Richard Wagner, a naturalized citizen of the United States, | because he had evaded the military service imposed upon all Russians. Wagner, it appears, is a native of Lodz, a little town near Warsaw. He is about 32 years of age and came to this country in 1867. Being active and industrious, and possessing, moreover, some talent for designing. he readily obtained employment in a large mill in Pater. son, N. J. After having worked in Boston and other places in Massachusetts for a short period, he entered the employ of Joseph P. Murphy, in Philadelphia.

In the latter port of October, 1882, young Wagner received a letter from home, telling him to return immediately to claim his portion of his father's estate. In the event of his refusal, the letter said, the Government ould confiscate his share as a punishment for having evaded military duty. The young man was unwilling lose his inheritance, amounting to some \$7,000, and in the early part of November, much against the advice of his friends, he sailed for Europe. Having been naturalized his friends, he sailed for Europe. Having been naturalized he had no difficulty before starting in securing a passport from the State Department. Some time in January of the present year, Mr. Murphy received a letter from Mr. Wagner, which announced his arrival in Lodz. A second and third letter, however, told how he had been subjected to police surveillance immediately after his arrival, and how he was compelled to report himself to the chief of police every day. Still another letter said that he had falled to obtain any satisfaction from the American Minister. At one time he was threatened with banishment. The letters which were sent to him from this country evidently never reached his hand, for he never mentioned the fact of receiving them. Since March nothing has been heard of Wagner, and his friends in Philiadelphia think he

ter. At one time he was threatened with camishment. The letters which were sent to him from this country evidently never reached his hand, for he never mentioned the fact of receiving them. Since March nothing has been heard of Wagner, and his friends in Philadelphia think he has been exiled to Siberia.

At the State Department it was said that the case had been in the hands of Mr. Hunt, United States Minister, for some time. The storm as told by Wagner's friends was admitted to be substantially true, though it was doubted whether he had been sent to Siberia. The punishment for evasion of military duty was generally a heavy fine. The Russslan Government did not acknowledge the right of expatriation. Once a Russian, always a Russlan. Even in the case of young Wagner, who had not reached the age at which Russian subjects are enrolled in the army when he came to this country, the Russian Government claimed allegiance. It would be considered a matter of courtesy if the Russian Government should accede to the request of the American Minister and allow Wagner to leave the country. This was only one of a number of like cases.

As a rule the Russian Government had been found unwilling to yield to the representations of the American Minister. It took time, however, and negotiations were going on now in regard to this case. If Wagner had really been sent to Siberia, it would be known here at once. The files of the Department showed that he had been detained merely and compelled to give up his passport. The matter would probably be settled shortly in a satisfactory manner.

THE DANVILLE ASSASSINATIONS.

THE BOURBON PALSEHOODS TO BE CONTRAVERTED.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TELBUNE. Washington, Dec. 17.—It is expected that the anti-Bourbon side of the Danville story will be made blic this week, and a Congressman who has carefully read the evidence to be produced in support of it declares that it will leave the report of the Danville "con of forty" without "a leg to stand on" He says the testimony of Democrats, as well as of Coalitionists—both black and white-will show conclusively that the Danville "riot " was the result of a carefully arranged and coolly premeditated Democratic plot to assassinate as many negroes as might be deemed necessary, in order to "draw the color line" in counties where the number of begre voters is comparatively small; that it was designed to intimidate white voters mainly at a distance from the seens of the murder, and that it succeeded.

Congressman Wise, of Virginia, said to-day that since the "rot" the same Grand Jury which exonerated and beautiful the white men who murdered the necessary which will be the property of the same of the property of the property

against some of the colored policemen of that city for carrying deadly weapons. The judge, Mr. Wise said, promptly ordered the cases dismissed, and took the opportunity to say that it was a matter of common notoricty that for weeks nine-tenths of the white men in the county had gone about armed with deadly weapons and their pockets filled with cartridges, and nobody had molested them. While such a condition of affairs prevailed it was an outrage to bring indictments against officers of the peace, whose duties might require them to be armed. be armed.

Mr. Wise is anxious that the Danville affair shall be ventilated by a free discussion in the House, and probably the session will not end before something has been said

BELMONT OVERRIDES ROSECRANS. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Dec. 17.-The chairman of the House Democratic caucus organization is General Rosecrans and Perry Belmont is the secretary. On Friday, it is said, the chairman wrote a call for a caucus to be held immediately and placed it in the hands of the secretary. The call, it appears, was not issued, and, therefore, no caucus was held last week. A therefore, no caucus was held last week. A Democratic Congressman said to-night that General Rosecrans then ordered a new call issued for a caucus to-day, but that the secretary again pocketed the document. The reason given by him for failing to execute the order of the chairman, it is said, was that he thought no cancus necessary at this time—an opinion which he asserted was shared by a large number of Representatives with whom he consulted. It is understood that the non-action of the secretary has excited considerable unfavorable comment among some of the older Democratic Representatives.

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS COMMITTEE.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Representative Cannon of Illinois, chairman of the House Republican caucus, who was recently authorized to appoint a general cancus committee of ten, including hinself, has filled the committee by the appointment of Representatives Kelfer, Hiscock, Kasson, Reed, Calkins, Ricc, Ryan, Bingham and Goff.

THE CHICAGO CONVENTION.

APPOINTMENTS BY CHAIRMAN SABIN, OF THE NA TIONAL COMMITTEE.

Washington, Dec. 17 .- At the late meeting of the Republican National Committee a resolution was adopted directing the appointment of a committee of seven, of which the chairman, D. M. Sabin, and the secretary, Colonel John A. Martin, should be members, to make all arrangements for the Chicago Convention. To-day Senator Sabin appointed the following additional members: John C. New, of Indiana; William C. Cooper, of Ohio; C. L. Magee, of Pennsylvania; John A. Logan, of Illinois; and Powell Clayton, of Arkunsas. L. J. Gage, of Chicago, was appointed treasurer of the committee. All funds for expenses in providing and building for the convention, and for incidental expenses,

building for the convention, and for incidental expenses, promised by the people of Chicago, are to be collected and deposited with Mr. Gage. The Committee on Arrangements will hold a meeting in Chicago early in March to perfect arrangements for the convention.

Captain William Higgins, of Kansas, was made sergeant-at-arms of the National Committee. Chairman Sabin also appointed the following sub-executive committee, to have charge of preliminary campaign work: O. H. Platt, Connecticut; William E. Chandler, New-Hampshire; James H. Stone, Michigan; William P. Frye, Maine; George W. Hooker, Vermont; Nathan Goff, West Virginia; and S. B. Elkirs, New-Mexico.

THE DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION. IRA SHAFER'S LETTER RESPECTING THE " MA CHINE" DELEGATION FROM ULSTER COUNTY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Poughkeepste, Dec. 17.-It seems as if Democratic politicians would never cease expressing their indignation respecting the methods used by Mr. Manning's "machine" to pack the late Democratic State Convention. To-day State Assessor Williams received a letter from Ira Shafer, in which the latter gave some in teresting particulars respecting the election of one of the Lloyd. Ulster County, denies the statement that he would vouch for the truth of a rumor that Mr. Williams had asked for the election of delegates favorable to the nomi-

ments, the trial of John F. Greening and Joseph Benjanote, accused of the marder of Ammie Cheever in Pike County, did not begin this afternoon. Unless the Judge grants a stay of proceedings, the case will come on fo trial to-morrow. The prisoners, by the advice of counsel, have nothing to say except that they were innocent, and that conviction could never be secured upon circumstantial evidence. In Pike County the public sentiment against the accused has not abated, but instead sentiment against the accused has not abated, but instead seems increasing. The well-known vindictiveness of the Greenings will indoubtedly have a bad effect upon the witnesses, many of woom will testify most unwillingly, fearing the vengeance of John F. Greening's relatives. The court will arrange for the protection of witnesses against any violence at the hands of the Greening family. The attendance at this sessions of court will be imprecedentedly large, great interest being shown. Friends of the murdered man from Boston and New-York will be here; and money will not be sparred to secure a conviction and quell the rufflanism of this remarkable family.

TWO MINSTREL SHOWS AT ODDS.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] CLEVELAND, Dec. 17 .-- The city is all agog to night over the determined warfare between two leading tween the members of the Barlow, Wilson, Primrose & the company divided. This week, beginning with to-night, Barlow, Wilson & Co.'s minstrels appear at the Park Theatre, and Thatcher Primrose & West's minstrels perform at the Opera House. All day long the two companies have been waring an advertising warfare. When the hand of one company appeared on the street to-day the opposition band followed plaxing a funeral march. "Harry" Clapham is manager of Barlow & Wilson's show, and George T. Clapham his, brother, conducts the affairs of Thatcher, Primrose & West's show. The brothers do not recognize each other. "Harry" says that George recently wrote him saying: "Hereafter, when we meet, save in the presence of our mother, we are strangers," Whereupon "Harry" replied: "My boy, when you need assistance, I will render it just as a have done before. I made you what you are. You never had an engagement that I did not get for you. You have my heartfelt sympathy." Theatre, and Thatcher Primrose & West's minstrels per

RESOLUTIONS OF VIRGINIA READJUSTERS.

INVITELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. HARRISONBURG, Va., Dec. 17 .- The Readjuster Committee of Rockingham County met here to-day and passed resolutions approving General Mahone's demand for a protective tariff, responding to the liberal call of the Republican National Committee in behalf of national aid to public education, reiterating their devotion to a free ballot and an honest count, avowing antagonism to the Bourbon shot-gun Democracy, and declaring their indignation at the attempt of the Bourbon Democratic majority in the Le delatere to un eat the representatives of the could in this county, anekingham is one of the three counties composing the old "Tenth Legion" of Virvinia Democratical and the county of the countries of the c

MAPLESON'S COMPANY IN BOSTON.

IRY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Boston, Dec. 17.—The opening to-night of Mapleson's brief season in Boston was brilliant, but the house was not much more than half full. The bill was " Linda," with Gerster as the heroine. This charming lady has never sang better in Boston than to-night The lack of interest is due, perhaps, to several causes. A. greater treat is anticipated from Abbey's company next week at the Boston Theatre. Then, too, Mapleson's season has not been properly advertised. Further, Irving is drawing large houses at the Boston Theatre from among the class who usually patronize the opera. Patti sings to morrow night.

THE ALLEGED INSURANCE FRAUDS.

FALL RIVER, Mass., Dec. 17 .-- It is understood that efforts are being made to compromise the graveyard insurance cases, and attorneys from Provi-dence were here to-day, presumably to effect a settle-

SOME TALL AND HEAVY MEN.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Boston, Dec. 17 .- A Journal correspondent at North Londonderry, N. H., writes: "There is in the town of Gilmanton, N. H., a family by the name of Gilman. The father's weight is over 300; the mother weighing over 200, and a son, fourteen years old, weighs 3031g pounds. There is a man by the name of Robinson, who weighs over 400 pounds. There are also in this town five residents whose individual height is six feet, six inches. There is in the old historic town of Londonderry a man, John Gilcreast, who weighs 3471g pounds."

RETIREMENT OF MR. VILLARD GIVING UP TWO OF HIS PRESIDENCIES.

THE NEW-ORLEANS ELECTION MURDER.

ALL OF THE PERSONS ARRESTED, EXCEPT J. D.

HOUSTON, DISCHARGED. New-Orleans, Dec. 17.—The preliminary xamination of Sheriff Brewster, John Dominick, A. M. Ancoin, J. D. Honston, "Mike" Early, D. Douglas and D. Donovan, accused of having committed murder at the Seventh Ward poll on Friday, took place before Recorder Ford to-day. Many of the witnesses were absent and Dis-trict-Attorney Finney asked for a continuance. He said: The case was set down very hurriedly, and the State had no time to make any preparation. It is an extraordicase, and needs preparation. The killing occurred on Friday last. No examination has been made by the coroper, and it would be best to await the result of the coroner's inquest." Counsel for the accused opposed a continuance, and

Judge Ford decided to go on with the hearing. The testimony was voluminous and conflicting. Most of the witnesses were present at the polls when the disturbance occurred, but knew very little about it. The most important testimony was given by Colonel John Augustin, city editor of The Times-Democrat. "He said; "I was at the Seventh Ward poll between 1 o'clock and 1:30. I went there to vote. While waiting for my turn, I heard a blow, and turned around and saw a man with a bloody head. Pistol shots were fired. As I was not interested in the pistol firing, I walked away; but, reflecting that it the pistol firing, I walked away; but, reflecting that it might be worse to move about, I retraced my steps and stood almost opposite the poil. I saw Captain Fortier raising his arm, as if in the act of firing. He fired. Mr. Houston was six or seven paces to the left of Captain Fortier. The captain fired at Mr. Houston. The latter remained motionless a moment and then returned the fire, and Captain Fortier fell backwards immediately.

After examining numerous wilnesses, Judge Ford salt: "The public is anxiously awaiting all news frem this case. If there is any person present in this Court who can directly or indirectly testify to the guilt of any of the prisoners at the bar, let them step forth and do so, as I wish to have a thorough investigation."

The Judge thereupon ordered the discharge of all the accused except Houston, who was committed to the Crimnal Court for man-laughter, under \$10,000 bonds, which were at once furnished.

AN ACADEMY OF ART IN ROME.

AN ESTATE TO BE GIVEN TO THE UNITED STATES -ART TRAINING FOR AMERICANS.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 17 .- The Providence Journal will to-morrow print the following: "A highly-liberal and patriotic proposition is made to the Government by our townsman, Albert Jay Jones, for nearly thirty years resident in Rome. Mr. Jones is an accomplished connoisseur in art. Mr. Jones proposes to give to the Government of the United States, Monte Baldrine, an estate of fifteen acres in the suburbs of Rome, which the estate of litter acres in the shourns of frome, which the advancing city is fast approaching. The building is beautifully situated, about a third of a mile from the Valican, and contains more than fifty rosms. It is valued at 200,000 frames, about \$40,000 of our money. An American Academy of Fine Arts may arise in Home, to the advancement of American art and the honor of the Mr. Jones's proposition has been communicated through American name." Mr. Jones's proposition has been communicated through contor Anthony to the Secretary of State.

LABOR TROUBLES.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 17 .- The workmen of the Edgar Thomson Steel Company having accepted the reduction of 13 per cent in their wages, the mills are running as usual to-day, and steady work is promised to 3,000 men through the winter. To the steel men this reduction means a cut in the wages at all the steel rall mills of the

Works of this city have shut down until after the holl-days, thereby throwing 175 hands out of employment. The suspension is likely to prove permanent as the men refuse to accept the contemplated reduction

New-Bedford, Mass, Dec. 17.—The managers of the Mansfield Mills had notices posted to-day, stating that the wages of the hands would be reduced about 10 per cent after January L TROY, N. Y., Dec. 17.-Old St. Francis Church, which is

upled by the families of non-union moulders employed in the Malleable Iron Works, was on fire twice yesterday. It is alleged that the fire was the work of an incendiary, as an oil can was found in the cellar near where the fire started.

Two laborers were assaulted and heaten this morning while going to the works by union moniders pair-siling the streets in the vicinity of the works.

THE EMMA BOND ASSAULT CASE,

St. Louis, Dec. 17 .- A despatch from Hillso to-day says that in the Emma Bond case ble testimony was introduced this morning to prove that a toe-nail paring found in the schoolhouse loft to which after the assault. her witnesses testified to conversations with y, in which he denied being near the school-

THE KENTUCKY SENATORSHIP,

Washington, Dec. 17 .- The Evening Star says: "It is understood that Speaker Carlisle has formally withdrawn from the Kentucky Senaterial race. It has been telegraphed to Kentucky that he does not want his name presented. this leaves the contest between Gen-eral Williams, the present incumbent, and Colonel Joe

LISTENING TO HIS DEATH WARRANT.

Easton, Penn., Dec. 17.-The Governor's warrant for the execution of John Dillman, convicted of the morder of his wife in February, fixing February 12 as the day for the hanging, was read to the prisoner thi morning. He admitted his guilt and said he would pre pare to meet his fate.

NORWAY IRON WORKS SOLD.

Boston, Dec. 17.—The Norway Iron Works at South Roston have been sold to a company at the head of which is George P. King. The business will be conducted under the title of the Norway Steel and Iron Works. The price pold is said to be \$150,000.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE ICE HARVEST.

ALBANY, Dec. 17.—The Hudson River is in thickness, the greatest depth being between Kinderhook and and Coxsackie. The tug Ellen M. Roan arrived from New-York last might. She was the last boat through and navigation in the Upper Hudson is culticly suspended. The icemen have already staked out fields for harvest.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN THE FAR WEST.

VANCOUVER, W. T., Dec. 17 .- A grand rally was held here last night in honor of the passage of the women's suffrage law. Leading politicians, respective of party, are getting up a petition to resident Arthur to appoint Mrs. Durway, the leader of e voman's enfranchisement cause, Governor of the

A FAILURE IN ST. PAUL.

St. PAUL, Dec. 17.-Sattler Brothers, clothing merchants, made an assignment this afternoon to Solomor Bergman for the benefit of their creditors. Their liabili

THE KILLING OF CHARLES MILAUGHLIN.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 17 .- In the inquest in the case of Charles McLaughlin, the millionnaire who was shot on December 13 by Jerome B. Cox, the Coroner's jury to-day brought in a verdict that Cox shot McLaugh lin in self-defence. The verdict created a sensation, a there was nothing in the evidence to warrant it.

DYING FROM HIS INJURIES.

Washington, Dec. 17 .- Captain Wharton, of Philadelphia, master of the tug Fannie Uhler, died at Providence Hospital, Washington, on Saturday, from in-juries received by an accident to the boiler while cruising in the Potomae River.

FATAL FALL FROM A BALUSTRADE

WATERTOWN, N. Y. Dec.17 .- Elias F. Cooper, a wealthy resident of this place, in a fit this afternoon fell 28 feet from a balustrade in the Arcade and struck the floor. It is feared that he is fatally injured. A MINING COMPANY'S DIFIDEND.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 17 .- The Bonanza King

Consolidated Mining Company has declared a dividend of twenty-five cents per share, payable immediately. THE HIGHAM MURDER TRIAL.

WATERTOWN, N. Y., Dec. 17 .- In the Higham muyder trial a tury was secured this aftergoon.

HE LEAVES THE OREGON COMPANIES, BUT RE

MAINS PRESIDENT OF NORTHERN PACIFIC. Henry Villard resigned the presidency of the Oregon and Transcontinental and the Oregon Railway and Navigation Companies yesterday. He still remains president of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. The announcement caused some confusion in Wali Street Early in the day there were-rumors of some change in the management of the Northern Pacific companies, but they were not confirmed until the middle of the afternoon. It was then stated officially that Mr. Villard had retired from the two companies. . It was said that William Endicott, jr., of Boston, would succeed him as president of the Oregon and Transcontinental Company, and T. Jefferson Coolidge, of Boston, as president of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company. There were no meetings of the directors of these companies, but it is understood that the choice of Mr. Villard's successors was made by mutual consent of some of the large stockholders of the companies. Mr. Villard said to a TRIBUNE reporter: "The published statement is correct, because I wrote it myself. Mr. Endicott is lunching here, but he

says that he has nothing to say to newspaper reporters.'s

The statement written by Mr. Villard is as follows:

Impressed with the conviction that it would not be proper for him to continue as president of all the companies whose management he has heretofore directed after the completion of the Northern Pacific as a transcontinental line, Mr. Villard some weeks ago urgently pressed Mr. Endicott to accept the presidency of the Oregon and Transcontinental Company. Mr. Endicott then felt obliged to decline, and now accepts only at the renewed request of Mr. Villaru and other members of the Board In connection with these changes, a syndicate has been organized which has taken "firm" a part of bonds now owned by the Oregon and Transcontinental Company, amounting to between nine and ten millions of dollars. This will reheve the Oregon and Transcontinental Company of the larger part of the debts which have of late been so burdensome and will enable the company to resume a sound financial position. A report of the condition of the company will be made as soon as the committee appointed by the Board at its last meeting has been able to make proper examination, which will necessarily occupy several days, but it may in the meantime be positively asserted that the report will show as on hand an aggregate of stocks fully equal to the amount held at the time of the annual report in June last.

CAUSE OF MR. VILLARD'S ACTION. says that he has nothing to say to newspaper reporters."

CAUSE OF MR. VILLARD'S ACTION. Mr. Villard is understood to have resigned as a director in he Oregon and Transcontinental Company. His private secretary said that he had left the Board from motives of delicacy because of the intimate relations between the company and the Northern Pacific Railroad. "It is probable," he said, "that there will arise intricate questions between the two companies, and Mr. Villard does not consider it proper that he should vote on both sides of them. I am sure that his personal interest in the companies is just as large as it ever has been. His resignainterest in the stocks of the companies."

The rumors of Mr. Villard's retirement caused some ex-

etement in Wall Street. Oregon and Transcontinental stock rose from 32% to 30% to 30%; Northern Pacific e 274s. Oregon Rallway and Navigation, which usu-lly is a quiet stock, rose from 102 to 1104; to 1004; The recorded transactions in these stocks were much larger than usual and at times they were attended with no little excitement. The extraordinary advance in cono unite in the investigation. It was stated, but not by

A FLURRY IN NEW-YORK CENTRAL.

There was a slight flurry in New-York Central stock yesterday afternoon. About 4,000 shares were bought n "under the rule," but some of the brokers for whose ant the stock was bought protested that they had not received the notice required by the rules of the Stock Exchange. The principal firms which made this objection were William Heath & Co., and John Bloodgood & Co. It is said that in both cases the purchases made for them were not in accordance with Stock Exchange custom. President Hatch said last night that he had received no formal protest from any one, but that while on the floor several brokers had said to him that they had not received proper notice. The bulk of the purchases were ceived proper notice. The balk of the purchase made at the demand of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., and the pal members of this firm said that the requisite had been given in every case.

THE CUT IN PASSENGER RATES.

No new developments occurred yesterday in the war in passenger rates between the trank lines and to the Northwest were not changed by the railroads, and of from \$2 to \$5 under these figures. Railroad men said that there would be no haste in the meeting of the cuts made by the brokers. The matter was simply a question of policy on the part of the roads, and the Comoffice was determined not to let it degenerate into a new quarrel with the scalpers, "Do not think that the trunk lines will not, therefore, follow the cuts," said a railroad man. "All of them will be met. Assistant Commiss Pierson has received advices on the situation from some of the Northwestern roads and expects to hea from others to morrow. It is too early yet for the knife to be applied further upon rates until the Iowa be applied further upon rates until the Iowa roads display a disposition to persist in their payment of commissions." Instructions were issued yesteriay by Mr. Pierson for the maintenance of schedule rates on unlimited tickets, there, through an oversight, not having been excluded from the order issued for reducing rates. If a cut were made on these tickets the brokers could secure many of them which would be good, even should rates be restored subsequently.

Kalirond men asserted that the extreme cut made by the brokers was only \$2 under the reduced pool rates. The brokers declared otherwise. A thriving businsss was done at Frank's, Lansing's and the other brokers' offices. In addition to the rates given by The Transve on Sunday, Mr. Frank has made the fare to \$1, Paul \$27 against \$20, the new rate by the trunk lines. "We are willing," he said, "to tell Mr. Pierson what our rates are. His spotters bother us a great deal and take up our time. We know them all. If he would only take them off I, for one, would be glad to give him any information he may want."

WEST SHORE ASKS TO JOIN THE POOL. The New-York, West Shore and Buffalo Railroad Company has applied for admission to the trunk line pool. Commissioner Fink made the official announcement yesterday. In reply to inquiries he said: nothing about whether they wished to come into the freight or passenger pool, or both pools. That will be a matter of future negotiations. I fold them we would be glad to have them join our happy family."

Practical railroad men say that the step taken by the West Shore will acquire more significance than it posesses now if, when the road opens to fluinio, it will maintain rates, and, also after the question of percentages comes no for settlement.

TEARING UP TRACKS IN OHIO.

Youngstown, Ohie, Dec. 17.—The employes of the New-York, Pennsylvania and Ohio Railroad Com, pany at noon to-day tere up the tracks of the Pittsburg Cleveland and Toledo Raliway at the Market-st, crossing Two hundred employes of the latter company soon arrived and drove off the New-York, Pennsylvania and Ohio men, and relaid the ralis. No one was seriously injured. The Pittsburg, Cleveland and Toledo is a new road which is being built by Channey Andrews, from Akron to Newcastle, Pa. The company is being vigorously fought by other roads, but its line will be completed this week.

AN AGREEMENT TO MERGE.

Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 17.—Articles of agreement were filed in the State Department to-day for the merging of the Scaboard, Pittsburg and Great Western Railroad Company, and the Delaware Water-Gap and Southwestern Railroad Company. The line of the former company extends from Greene Village, Franklin County to a point in Allegheny County, west of Pittsburg a dis.

Western Railroad Company," with the main office in Philadelphia. Its officers will be Robert M. Janney, of Philadelphia, president; S. E. Heasley, of Brooklyh, Treasurer; C. M. Staller, of Springfield, N. J., Secretary. The capital of the company is \$11,500,000.

A CHANGE OF GAUGE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Dec. 17 .- A prominent railroad official stated to-day that the Queen and Crescent line, formerly known as the Cincinnati, New-Orleans and Texas Pacific, had determined to change to a narrow gauge. All engines are now built with a view to this change, and after the necessary trucks are ready, that road will be altered.

One division will be altered each day, and the entire line will be changed in four days. The road will be ready to make the change by the opening of spring.

THE ATLANTIC AND GREAT WESTERN. CLEVELAND, Dec. 17,-James McHenry made a deposition to-day in his suit to overturn the reorganization scheme of the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad H's cross-examination is likely to occupy several days.

RESULT OF THE TRIBUNE'S EXPOSURES.

A DEMAND FOR AN INVESTIGATION PROPOSED IN

THE YOUNG MEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB. At the meeting of the Young Men's Democratic Club last evening the following preamble and reso itions, in reference to the corruption in the Department of Public Works which THE TRIBUNE has been exposing, were offered by Robert A. Van Wyck. They were laid

were offered by Robert A. Van Wyck. They were laid over until the next meeting:

Whereas, The Democratle organizations of this city known respectively as Tammany Hail, County Democ, raev and IrvingHall, have, by the process of affiliation, ractically become one; and
Whereas, Grave and serious charges have been publicly made against the administration of the Commissioner of Public Works, who is a Democrat and the leading spirit of the County Democracy; and
Whereas, The only other organized body of Democrats in this city is the Young Men's Democrats not alone to so-clety but to their party to vigorously add in the procecution of Democratic officials when wrong-doers, as well as to have their innocence clearly shown, when charges are fausely made, by an investigation which should be non-partisson in its character and so therough and scarching as to convince all fair-minded people; and
Whereas, The officials of this city, within whose line of duty would come the direction of the investigation of the administration of this Department, are closely identified with after the Tampany Hail County Democracy or

duty would come the direction of the investigation of the administration of this Department, are closely identified with either the Tummany Hall, County Democracy or Irving Hall organization; Therefore

Resolved, That a committee of ten be raised by this club to confer with the committee of the Union League Club, as well as with other committees which may be appointed by Municipal Reform or other non-partisan associations, in reference to the best and wisest course of action to be adopted in securing the most searching and convincing investigation into the administration of the Department of Public Works.

The club also discussed the question whether or not it is advisable to hold spring elections for municipal and county offices in this city. J. V. Arnoid, John R. Fellows, O. B. Potter and F. N. Conder spoke. A motion favoring such elections was adopted.

AN INSOLVENT DRY-GOODS FIRM.

FAILURE OF D. M. A E. G. HALBERT OF BUNGHAM-TON-A "BLIND POOL" SAID TO BE THE CAUSE.

BINGHAMTON, Dec. 17.-Messes, D. M. & E. 3. Halbert, wholesale and retail dealers in dry goods in this city, filed an assirnment at nine o'clock to-day for the benefit of creditors in the County Clerk's office here. Their liabilities are between \$300,000 and \$400,000; very high and the members are greatly esteemed. The failure is aboily due to stock speculations. The efforts made by their to recover from losses in the "blind pool" resulted invaining the firm. George F. Lyon was made asskince. The unseemed detts of the firm amount to \$100,000, and they give preferences of \$40,000.

I wenty-fourth District, died suddenly in Albany, Republicans of Pinghamton claimed the nomination, inasmuch as Mr. Hopkins had not served out his term, and the justness of their claim was admitted. They elected Edwin G. Halbert, a junior member of the dry goods firm of D. M. & E. G. Halbert, of Binghamton, as their candidate; he was nominated by the Republican Senatorial Convention, and was duly elected Senator on March 25, 1879. So well and was duly elected Senator on March 25, 1879. So well did Mr. Halbert serve the people of the district during the few weeks remaining of the term that he was again elected senator in the fall for a term covering the years 1880 and 1881.

In the early part of 1881 several Senators, it is said, among them Mr. Halbert, invested a large amount of money in a "blind pool" in American District Telegraph stock. Prominent politicians who were in Albany at the time also made large investments. The late Arthur B. Johnson, of Utica, was one of the politicians who lotned in the speculation. He is reported to have sunk a large sum of money. The speculation is said to have been a disastrous one to nearly all concerned in

TWENTY LIVES LOST.

SINKING OF THE SCHOONER MARY ANN HURLBERT IN LARY SUPERIOR.

DULUTH, Minn., Dec. 17 .-- A tug which arived from the north shore brings intelligence that the orst fears of thse who believed the schooner Mary Ann Hurlbert was lost have been confirmed.

She went down during the severe gale last Wednesday night with twenty men on board, all of whom were lest. Their names are not known, but most of them were railroad laborers. The schooner was being towed by the tug Kinearwent down. The schooner was a small vessel and was valued at about \$3,000.

MURDERED BY A BURGLAR.

DENVER, Dec. 17 .- At Durango, Colorado, early this morning several burglars headed by a negro known as "Big Ike," picked the lock of the door of the bank of Durango. The negro entered the building, while the others remained outside. Three residents who were watching the bank, having been informed of the intended robbery, started to capture the negro; but as he was pass-ing through the door he drew a revolver and fired, killing Bruce Hant, a furniture dealer, and son of ex-Governor Hunt. The robbers then made their escape, although shot at several times. The town is wild with excitement and the citizens are ready to shoot any of the robbers should they be found.

THE SNOW STORM IN NEW-ENGLAND.

Boston, Dec. 17 .- The snow storm which egan last night was unusually heavy alongshore. Captain McDonald, of the tug Storm King, telegrapus from Wood's Hell that he towed the schooner Augustus Hunt from Philadelphia for Boston, over the shoals, and went

LOTTERY CIRCULARS IN THE MAILS.

Boston, Dec., 17 .- Special Agent Field, of the Post Office Department, has informed H. H. Warner & Co., of Rochester, N. Y., that thirty-five large sacks of their circulars are in the Boston Post Office and will be returned to them by express at their expense. The circulars contain a lottery scheme, and it is on the ground of the lottery scheme that the circulars are held to be in violation of the Post Office laws and delivery refused.

ATTEMPTED MURDER AT REEVEYTOWN.

RED BANK, N. J., Dec. 17.-Simon Saltman was assaulted in a cowardly manner by George Reevey, at Reeveytown, on Saturday. Reevey jumped upon his victim from the roadside, and after shooting him pounded him until he was unconscious. Saltman lies at Eatontown in a critical condition. Reevey was arrested after a des-

HEINE CONVICTED OF MANSLAUGHTER .

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 17.-At Woodbury, N. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 17.—At Woodbury, N.
J., to-day, Rudolph Heine was convicted of manslaughter in killing his wife by kicking her while they were playing croquet one Sunday several weeks ago. They were engaged in the game on the farm of a neighbor, when a dispute arose over the balls "kissing," and Heine kicked his wife.

BURGLARS SET FIRE TO A HOUSE,

DETROIT, Dec. 17.—The house of S. P. Creasinger at Fowler, Mich., was entered this morning by burglars, who secured \$2,100. They then set fire to the house and it was totally destroyed.

Physical taxed. The result was that the tax could not be collected.

President Asten said there was no need of making it a personal matter. He had asked for certain information and had obtained it. He asked Mr. Azdrews who was resident of the Tax Department in 1880. Mr. Andrews he that he did not question the integrity of the President of the Tax Department.

Mr. Andrews said that one of his assistants who had charge of \$75,000 to finish certain work for which assessments had been levied would probably save the city \$500,000. It rested with the Board to consider this. He submitted the item.

The Mayor said that the State Board of Charities would be heard to-day.

tance of 210 miles, and the latter from a point in Bed-ford County to Smithfield, Monroe County, near Delaware water-Gap, a distance of 255 miles. The name of the new company will be the "Scaboard, Pennsylvama and

DISPOSING OF CITY MONEY.

MR. ASTEN AND AND MR. ANDREWS FALL OUT.

SHARP WORDS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE TAX DEPARTMENT AND THE CORPORATION COUN-SEL.

Fire Commissionors Purroy, Van Cott and Croker yesterday, before the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, explained the items in their budget. The increase over last year, they said, was made up largely of two items, \$52,400 for more companies, and \$100,000 for

Mr. Asten-I am an old fireman and can find no fault with the amounts asked for. I shall vote for them.
The amount allowed the Fire Department for 1883 was

\$1,585,745. The amount asked for 1884, which will probably be allowed, is \$1,686,129 20. President Shaler said the Health Board had

asked for \$15,000 more for salaries, making the total for salaries \$193,000. There had been changes in the classification of employes, and the increase was necessary Mr. Asten-Why is it necessary that the vaccinating corps shall be increased when small-pox is almost obliterated? President Shaler—The vaccinating corps is kept busy because of the increasing population.

Mr. Asten-The law provides for two bureaus in the Health Department. I see that the Sanitary Bureau has been split up into seven divisions, each presumably with a head. Why is this necessary!

President Shaler-for greater efficiency, President Shaler explained at length the duties of

the meat, milk and fruit inspectors.

Mr. Asten—The city is cleaner and more healthy inan for many years past, yet I find here an increase of nearly \$20,000 for salaries. Why is this! President Shaler. If you were to visit my office I could onvince you in half an hour that the increased popula-

tions the greater area of the city and the increased number of houses to inspect will account for the increase. Mr. Asten-Is it not a fact that the city is not much healthler than in former years ? Iam familiar with the building laws, and I know that there has been a great improvement seoustruction of tenements, requiring less frequent inspection than those constructed in former years. The old-class tenements, have been materially altered under the requirements of the Health Board. The new law passed last winter required all plumbers to report to the Health Board and be registered. This made additional clerical work, and for this \$10,000 was appropriated. There will be nothing like that amount of work for the coming year. Yet I see that the full amount is

President Shaler-The law calls for it.

Mr. Asten-The law fixes a limit. It does not require President Shaler said that the depar tment headquarters

Freshent Shaler said that the department headquarters were wholly inadequate. Hence \$200,000 had been asked for to procure a site and put up a building. Another parlillop was necessary on North Brothers Island, and for this \$118,000 was asked.

Mr. Asten—I admit that the quarters of the Health Department are contracted, but I think the day is not far distant when an additional building will be creeted in the City Hall. Fark that will furnish accommodations for several departments.

several departments.
The Health Department has this year \$463,207; for 1884, \$740,799 is asked for; the provisional estimates allow \$422,799. CONTINGENCIES IN THE CORPORATION COUSEL'S OFFICE.

Robert A. Shannon as a taxpayer criticised several

items. The \$37,500 for contingencies for the Law Department be could see no warrant of law for.

Mayor Edson—Can the Corporation Counsel tell beforehand what expenses ho will incur for counsel fees. Mr. Shannon-He should be able to approximate it.

The State Attorney-General does not ask for anything In 1879 Peter W. Hepkins, a lawyer of Bingham like this amount. President Asteu-I think the gentleman is right upon President Asteu—I think the gentleman is right upon the main point. The Corporation Counsel has 32 assistants and he now wants \$37,600 for contingencies. I think it too much in that shape. I should like to know what the amounts are which make up this sum.

Mr. Shannon opposed the appropriation of \$20,000 for clerk hire and contingencies for the Commissioner of Accounts. This was altogether too much to pay officials who had talked to detect fraud, and one of whom had been disandssed for dereliction of duty.

Mayor Edson—Two.

Mr. Shannon opposed the items of \$60,000 for Sheriff's fees and \$25,000 for supplies for prisoners in the County Jatl.

Jail.

President Asten—The item for supplies for prisoners has been doubled since last year.

Mr. Shannon declared that the expenditure for the Register's Office was too much. He could find no authority for so many assistant district-attorneys. Sections 1,503 and 1,504 of the consolidation act fixed the number. In conclusion he said that instead of an increase there should be a reduction of expenses in many of the departments.

MR. ANDREWS PROCEEDS TO EXPLAIN. asked him some questions about the \$37,500 for contin-

Mr. Andrews-There are more than 10,000 cases, inwith a millions of dollars, still in hitigation, in which the city is defendant, and where it may be necessary to employ special counsel or spend money for expert evidence. In one case alone, the bond tax matter of 1881, had the decision been adverse to the city it would have cost it move than \$12,000,000.

decision been adverse to the city it would have cost it more than \$12,000,000.

Mr. Asten—if you need more help in the way of counsel, why not put it so! Here is an item for \$10,000 for the detection and punishment of frauds on the city and county of New-York prior to 1872. This same item appeared last year. I have not been able to ascertain, what it means. I have called at the Controller's office and cannot find out.

Mr. Andrews—The gentleman's office is within a stone's throw of mine. We are in the same building. He could have readily ascertained all about the item by calling on me. Or if he did not wish to take this trouble, he could have written to me.

Mr. Asten—I am only one member of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. This is the place to seek for information, and you have been sent for by the Board to give us information concerning your estimates.

Mr. Andrews, (warmly)—One reason why this item of \$37,500 is asked for, is because the Tax Department has not follo sed the opinions of the Corporation Counsel in taxing corporations, and the city has thus become involved in needless hitgation.

Mr. Asten, (indignantly)—I may have something to say as to the opinions of the Corporation Counsel both oral and written.

Mr. Andrews,—The bank shares in this city were improperly assessed for 16 years. The tracks of the elevat-

and written.

Mr. Andrews.—The bank shares in this city were im properly assessed for 16 years. The tracks of the elevated and horse railroads were assessed as real estate. This was all wrong. I have told the Tax Commissioners how they could legally tax these corporations but they have failed to do it, and needless ittigation has followed.

THE ARGUMENT WAXES WARM, Mr. Asten-I was not in the Tax office in 1880. I did

the opinions of Mr. Andrews have been followed. I have asked for certain information and would like to have it Mr. Andrews-If you are going to talk all the time I cannot explain anything. Mr. Asten, (hotly)-Well, I propose to talk, no matter

how eminent people may be. Mr. Andrews, (sarcastically)-You are very much givn to talk. The Mayor called the two gentlemen to order Mr. Reilly said that if the Tax Commissioners had un-

necessarily subjected the city to loss, they should be held ersonally responsible. personally responsible.

Mr. Andrews said that his successor would have to decide on that point. He added: "When the question of taxing the elevated railroads was under discussion I sent for the president of the Iax Department and his deputies to obtain information concerning the matter, and they were obliged to confess their ignorance."

Mr. Asten-I did not ask for an argument. I asked for information.

Mr. Andrews-And I will give it to you-a belly-full of

Mr. Andrews-And I will give it to you—a belly-full of it.

Mr. Asten—You cannot give me too much. I am not afraid to have the fullest light thrown on my department. Mr. Andrews then proceeded to explain at leagth the item of \$10,000. It first appeared ten years ago, when the Ring trials were under way. It was intended to pay expert counsel and procure testimony. Messrs. Taintor and Tinker were employed examining various accounts including the books of the Broadway Bank. Since then there have been other suits, including the Navarro Water-Meter case, involving \$1,200,000. James C. Carter conducted the case until he was taken sick; then F. N. Bangs was employed. A judgment against the city was rendered by the referee, John K. Porter. This was reversed at the General Term, and so the matter stands. Then there was the Hackley street-cleaning contract case, which has been under way for nearly twenty years. Other cases were cited.

Mr. Asten—You have said that suits favolving millions

under way for nearly twenty years. Other cases were cited.

Mr. Asten—You have said that suits involving millions of dollars have been begun against the Tax Department. Will you please say how many cases have been lost!

Mr. Andrews acquitted the Tax Department of respensibility for the elevated railway tax matter. He added, however, that he did not dare to bring suits to compel the payment of certain taxes, because they had not been levied by the Tax Department in accordance with law. The Western Union Telegraph Company was a case in point Tae poles and wires of the company in this city were taxed as real estate, and at the same time the capital stock of the company was taxed. The result was that the tax could not be collected.

President Asten said there was no need of making it a